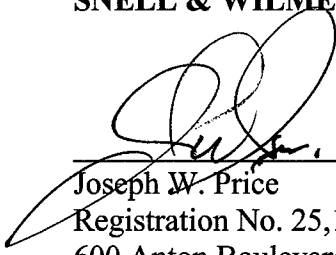


In view of the amendments to the claims and the above comments, it is believed the case is now in condition for allowance and an early notification of the same is requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, the undersigned attorney can be contacted at the listed telephone number.

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



Joseph W. Price

Registration No. 25,124

600 Anton Boulevard, Suite 1400

Costa Mesa, California 92626-7689

Telephone: (714) 427-7420

Facsimile: (714) 427-7799